

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)**: A method for locating difficult access points on a topological map using discontinuities between curvilinear distances of neighboring points, the method comprises the steps of:

scanning points on a map of curvilinear distances, using reliefs only crossable by detour trajectories;

reading estimated value $DT(0)$ of the curvilinear distance assigned, in the map of curvilinear distances, to a point C_{00} under analysis;

determining a Euclidean distance $C(V)$ separating a point V under investigation, from the point C_{00} under analysis using a chamfer mask distance transform;

determining an estimated value $DT(V)$ of the curvilinear distance assigned, in the map of curvilinear distances, to the point V under investigation;

calculating an absolute value of any discrepancy between the estimated values of the curvilinear distances, $DT(0)$ and $DT(V)$, with the determined Euclidean distance $C(V)$; and

determining a difficulty of access and transforming the point C_{00} under analysis based upon an inequality of the absolute value calculated and the determined Euclidean distance $C(V)$ from a reference point on a topological map established on the basis of a map of estimated curvilinear distances separating the points of the topological map from the reference point, comprising the steps of:

analyzing the map of curvilinear distances by means of a chamfer mask cataloging the approximate values $C(V)$ of the Euclidean distances by separating a point C_{00} of the map from its nearest neighbors V , so as to extract therefrom, at each

~~point C_{00} of the map of curvilinear distances, the discrepancies $(DT(V)-DT(0))$ of curvilinear distances separating the point considered C_{00} from its nearest neighbors V ;~~
~~comparing the discrepancies $(DT(V)-DT(0))$ with the approximate values $C(V)$ of the Euclidean distances of the chamfer mask; and~~
~~describing the point considered C_{00} as difficult of access when a difference appears.~~

2. **(Currently Amended)**: The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein determining a difficulty of access and transforming the point C_{00} under analysis based upon an inequality of the absolute value calculated and the determined Euclidean distance $C(V)$ includes using several thresholds ~~are used during the comparison of the discrepancies of curvilinear distances and Euclidean distances, so as to devise degrees~~ determine a degree of importance in the importance of the detour ~~detour~~ required to reach a difficult access point.

3. **(Currently Amended)**: The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the difficult access points ~~of the map of curvilinear distances that are regarded as difficult of access are located on the topological map established on the basis of the map of curvilinear distances by a pattern and/or a particular texture.~~

4. **(Currently Amended)**: The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the degrees in the importance of the detour required of a difficult access point are ~~evidenced~~ indicated on the topological map by different patterns and/or textures.

5. **(Currently Amended)**: The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chamfer mask ~~used for the locating of~~ for locating the difficult access points is of dimension 3×3 .

6. **(Currently Amended)**: The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chamfer mask ~~used for the locating of the~~ locating the difficult access points is of dimension 5×5 .